

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 CU-04

DRC-01 /170 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3787

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 12453

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

TOKYO ALSO PLEASE PASS ENDERS AT CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT-NOVEMBER 13, 1973

GENERAL

1. GRUNK MARKED THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF CAMBODIA'S INDEPENDENCE BY ANNOUNCING THAT ITS MINISTERS WOULD RETURN TO CAMBODIA. THE ONLY "MINISTER" TO MAKE FOR HOME THUS FAR, HOWEVER, IS SIHANOUK'S COMMUNIST "TAIL", "SPECIAL EMISSARY" IENG SARY, FOR WHOM SIHANOUK HAS NOT DISGUISED HIS DISTASTE. THE MOVE THUS APPEARED TO BE LITTLE MORE THAN WINDOW DRESSING FOR UNGA, WHERE THE NAMING OF DELEGATES TO THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE THREATENED TO PRECIPITATE A CREDENTIALS SHOWDOWN. THE GKR IN THE MEANTIME SUFFERED A SETBACK IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA AS AUSTRALIA WITHDREW ITS SUPPORT FROM THE EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND. THE MILITARY SCORE WAS ROUGHLY BALANCED THIS WEEK AS THE KC AGAIN CUT ROUTE 4 TO THE SEA AND INFLICTED HEAVY LOSSES DURING THE EVACUATION F SRANG WHILE FANK EXTENDED THE PERIMETER OF KOMPONG CHAM AND CLEARED THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG NORTH OF THE
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CAPITAL. THE GKR HAS APPARENTLY ARRANGED FOR ADEQUATE PETROLEUM SUPPLIES AND CONTINUES TO SEARCH ANXIOUSLY FOR SOLUTIONS TO RICE DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS AS RUMORS CIRCULATE OF POSSIBLE ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. RUMORS THAT STUDENTS ALONG WITH TEACHERS, CIVIL SERVANTS, SOLDIERS, AND INSURGENT SYMPATHIZERS ARE

PLANNING DEMONSTRATIONS TO PROTEST THE HIGH COST OF LIVING HAVE CAUSED THE GKR LEADERSHIP, MADE SOMEWHAT JITTERY BY LAST MONTH'S EVENTS IN BANGKOK, TO UNDERTAKE CRASH EFFORTS TO REDUCE SOURCES OF DISSATISFACTION. AN APPARENTLY FALSE REPORT THAT DEMONSTRATIONS MIGHT ERUPT TODAY LED TO AN ALERT AND CONFINEMENT TO BARRACKS OF FANK TROOPS IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA. OUR SOUNDINGS OF STUDENT LEADERS AND OTHER KNOWLEDGABLE SOURCES HAVE PRODUCED NO EVIDENCE THAT ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY IS IMMINENT, BUT INFLATION AND RICE DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED DISCONTENT, WHICH COULD EVENTUALLY BREAK OUT IN DEMONSTRATIONS BY STUDENTS AND/OR OTHERS.

3. PRESIDENT LON NOL MADE A VISIT TO THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG CHAM ON NOVEMBER 7 ACCOMPANIED BY A NUMBER OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER IN TAM AND FANK COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ. THE MARSHAL PRAISED THE COURAGE AND PATRIOTIC SPIRIT WHICH THE CITIZENS, SOLDIERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS OF THE CITY DISPLAYED DURING THE RECENT KHMER COMMUNIST SIEGE. HE ALSO PROMOTED 12 FANK OFFICERS, INCLUDING OPERATIONAL COMMANDER COL. UK SAUV TO BG.

4. A NEW EMPHASIS UPON ATTRACTING VOLUNTEERS AND THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST RECRUITS FROM KANDAL PROVINCE SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH HAS PROVIDED THE IMPETUS TO KEEP CONSCRIPTION MOVING AT AN ACCEPTABLE RATE DESPITE CONTINUED FAILURE TO MOVE DECISIVELY AGAINST DRAFT EVADERS. CONSCRIPTION IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN SOON IN OTHER PROVINCES OUTSIDE PHNOM PENH AND A PLAN TO TIGHTEN UP ON DEFERMENTS IS UNDER CONSIDERATION. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW RECRUITS UNDER THE CONSCRIPTION
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PROGRAM TO DATE IS 7698, 6548 OF WHOM ARE VOLUNTEERS AND 1150 DRAFTEES.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

5. A NEW TWIST HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE GKR REPRESENTATION PROBLEM AT THE UN WHERE GRUNK SUPPORTERS ARE NOW EXPECTED TO PROPOSE SUBSTITUTION OF SIHANOUK'S REGIME FOR THE GKR WHEN INVITATIONS TO THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE ARE ISSUED. THE UNGA WILL VOTE ON THIS QUESTION IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. MEANWHILE GKR HOPES FOR RETAINING MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN ITSELF HAVE RISEN AS A RESULT OF INDICATIONS THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO AVOID FINAL CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER DURING THE CURRENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION.

6. AUSTRALIA HAS DECIDED NOT TO CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO THE CAMBODIAN EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND BUT WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE SUPPORT UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN. IN AN AUSTRALIAN NATIONALDAY SPEECH PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM CLARIFIED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO RECOGNIZE THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT SO LONG AS IT EXISTS AND IS IN THE UN.

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GRUNK/FUNK

7. SIHANOUK ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 9, THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF KHMER INDEPENDENCE, THAT ALL MINISTERIAL TITLES IN GRUNK HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO PERSONS INSIDE CAMBODIA (AFP LATER REPORTED RECEIVING A TELEGRAM FROM SIHANOUK'S CABINET CLARIFYING THAT SARIN CHHAK, WHO LIVES IN PEKING, WILL REMAIN FOREIGN MINISTER). WITH PRIME MINISTER PENN NOUTH REPORTEDLY ILL IN CANTON, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER KHIEU SAMPHAN HAS BEEN DESIGNATED ACTING PREMIER. ACCORDING TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT ALL FORMER MINISTERS NOW RESIDING IN PEKING WILL BECOME REPRESENTATIVES TO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. THDDPRINCE DECLARED THAT, SINCE HIS GOVERNMENT IS NOW ESTABLISHED ON CAMBODIAN TERRITORY, ANYONE MENTIONING A GOVERNMENT IN EXILE "WILL BE PROSECUTED".

8. ALSO ON NOVEMBER 9 SPECIAL ENVOY FROM THE INTERIOR IENG SARY (A COMMUNIST) WHO HAS BEEN IN PEKING FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS, LEFT FOR CAMBODIA VIA HANOI. AN AFP CORRESPONDENT IN PEKING REPORTS "GOOD SOURCES" TO THE EFFECT THAT IENG SARY WILL NOT RETURN TO THE CHINESE CAPITAL. SARIN CHHAK GAVE A RECEPTION IN PENN NOUTH'S NAME AND AN IMPRESSIVE FAREWELL BANQUET AT THE GREAT HALL OF PEOPLE WAS HOSTED BY CHOU EN-LAI, AND ATTENDED BY MANY HIGH RANKING PRC LEADERS. NEITHER

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SIHANOUK OR PENN NOUTH WAS PRESENT AT THESE CELEBRATIONS. BOTH ARE IN CANTON WHERE THE PRINCE'S MOTHER, FORMER QUEEN KOSSAMAK, RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM PHNOM PENH. AFP REPORTS THAT SIHANOUK PLANS AN EXTENDED STAY IN CANTON.

9. COMMENT: UNDOUBTEDLY A MAJOR REASON FOR TRANSFERRING THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT FROM PEKING TO CAMBODIA AT THIS TIME IS TO DODGE THE CHARGE OF "GOVERNMENT IN EXILE" WHICH IS HARMFUL TO THE GRUNK IMAGE IN THE CURRENT REPRESENTATION BATTLE AT THE UNGA. THE ADDED IMPACT PROVIDED BY THE CONCURRENT MOVEMENT OF IENG SARY, WHO IS BELIEVED TO BE AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE KHMER COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, SERVES TO EMPHASIZE THE GAP IN COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE IN-COUNTRY INSURGENTS WHICH SIHANOUK COMPLAINED ABOUT IN HIS RECENT INTERVIEW WITH LE MONDE.

10. "CPNLAF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF" KHIEU SAMPHAN APPEALED OVER FUNK RADIO FOR A MORE POWERFUL OFFENSIVE IN THE 1973-74 DRY SEASON. CALLING FOR ATTACKS ON THE AREAS SURROUNDING PHNOM PENH, PROVINCIAL CAPITALS, AND PRINCIPAL COMMUNICATIONS ARTERIES, HE EXORTED KHMER UNDER GKR CONTROL TO THROW OUT THEIR LEADERS, INVITE THE GRUNK IN, AND RIVE OUT "THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS". THE GKR'S RECRUITMENT/CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN WAS CITED AS A SPECIAL TARGET. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO PREDICTION OF COLLAPSE OF PHNOM PENH OR EVEN THE CAPUTE OF A PROVINCIAL CAPITAL BUT RATHER THE VAGUE GOAL OF DRIVING THE GKR TO "MORE SERIOUS COLLAPSE" AND "AN EVEN MORE CRITICAL STATE OF AGONY". THE MESSAGE IS THUS SIGNIFICANTLY LESS CONFIDENT THAN SIMILAR STATEMENTS AT THE START OF THE LAST DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE, WHEN A QUICK VICTORY WAS FORECAST.

11. PENN NOUTH ALSO WEIGHED IN WITH A CALL FOR "MORE CRUSHING OFFENSIVES IN THE 1973-74 DRY SEASON" AND PREPARATIONS FOR "THE FORTHCOMING COMPLETE LIBERATION OF THE COUNTRY". THIS EXHORTATION WAS CONTAINED IN A 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO PRAISING THE VICTORIES SCORED IN "THE NATIONAL LIBERATION WAR" OVER THE PAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS.

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12. THE NOVEMBER 9 INDEPENDENCE DAY WAS EQUALLY THE OCCASION FOR GREETINGS TO SIHANOUK FROM THE LEADERS OF NORTH VIETNAM AND NORTH KOREA AS WELL AS CONGRATULATORY EDITORIALS IN THE PEKING PEOPLE'S DAILY AND HANOI'S NHAN DAN.

13. HSINHUA REPORTS AN AKI CLAIM THAT "THE PATRIOTIC CAMBODIAN PEOPLE AND ARMED FORCES WIPED OUT 178,000 ENEMY TROOPS" IN THE 12 MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 31. DURING THIS PERIOD THEY ALLEGEDLY CAPTURED 44,350 WEAPONS, INCLUDING ARTILLERY, DESTROYED OR SERIOUSLY DAMAGED 1,300 TANKS AND OTHER VEHICLES, SET AFIRE 771 SHIPS, AND SHOT DOWN OR SERIOUSLY DAMAGED 292 PLANES, AMONG OTHER THINGS. MAJOR LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS WERE CONTINUOUSLY CUT, "THE PEOPLES ARMED FORCES CLOSED IN ON PHNOM PENH FROM ALL SIDES", PRESSURE WAS EXERTED ON A NUMBER OF PROVINCIAL CAPITALS, AND A LARGE NUMBER OF INHABITANTS (240,000 IN THE PAST 6 MONTHS) CROSSED TO THE LIBERATED ZONE, ACCORDING TO AKI, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THE CPNLF WAS GROWING IN STRENGTH TO REACH A POSITION OF "ABSOLUTE SUPERIORITY".

GRUNK/FUNK (EXTERNAL)

14. REUTERS REPORTED FROM WARSAW ON NOVEMBER 3 THAT POLAND HAS RECOGNIZED SIHANOUK'S GRUNK AND THAT A PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT WOULD SOON BE MADE. NO STATEMENT HAS YET BEEN ISSUED AND THE SITUATION THUS REMAINS UNCLEAR. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF THE POLISH EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH.

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ECONOMIC:

15. AS A RESULT OF TELAKHMER'S RECENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH
THE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES IN BANGKOK, IT APPEARS AS THOUGH

ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF POL CAN BE MAINTAINED. IN GENERAL THE FOUR COMPANIES INVOLVED, CALTEX, SHELL, ESSO, AND SUMMIT, WILL BE ABLE TO MEET COMMITMENTS TO BOTH PHNOM PENH AND BATTAMBANG BUT AT PRICES THAT WILL BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT THE NORMAL 30-DAY NOTICE. INCREASES IN QUANTITIES OF POL WILL BE DIFFICULT AND IN ANY EVENT WILL BE AT CONSIDERABLY INCREASED PRICES.

16. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED AUTHORITY TO AMEND THE EXISTING PL 480 AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 50,000 MTS OF RICE, THEREBY RAISING THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE AGREEMENT TO \$88.658 MILLION. THE AMOUNT OF RICE NOW UNDER PL 480 AGREEMENTS WITH THE GKR TOTALS 135,000 MTS. NOTES ARE EXPECTED TO BE EXCHANGED SHORTLY.

17. AS OF NOVEMBER 11TH, THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 9,157 MTS OF RICE IN PHNOM PENH WAREHOUSES (ROUGHLY 16 DAYS' SUPPLY). DURING THE NEXT WEEK APPROXIMATELY 5,700 MTS OF RICE FROM THAILAND AND VIETNAM ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN PHNOM PENH. IN ADDITION TO THESE AMOUNTS, THE FIRST SHIPMENTS OF KOREAN RICE FOR CAMBODIA HAVE BEGUN TO

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ARRIVE IN SAIGON AND ARRANGEMENTS ARE UNDERWAY FOR TRANSHIPMENT TO PHNOM PENH. IN ADDITION TO THE KOREAN RICE WE ARE EXPECTING APPROXIMATELY 20,000 MTS OF PL 480 RICE TO ARRIVE IN DECEMBER. AT CURRENT RATES OF DISTRIBUTION, WE PROJECT APPROXIMATELY A THREE WEEKS' SUPPLY ON HAND BY

THE BEGINNING OF JANUARY 1974. ATTEMPTS ARE NOW UNDER WAY TO AUGMENT THIS SECURITY STOCK BY EITHER SPEEDING UP PL 480 DELIVERIES OR MAKING ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PURCHASE OF RICE FROM THAILAND AND/OR ADDITIONAL LOANS FROM VIET NAM. PROBLEMS OF RICE DISTRIBUTION CONTINUE TO RECEIVE HIGH LEVEL GKR ATTENTION BECAUSE OF THE APPREHENSIONS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE.

MILITARY

18. KHMER COMMUNIST (KC) FORCES INCREASED ATTACKS AGAINST SRANG FOLLOWING THEIR CAPTURE OF TRAM KHNAR ON NOVEMBER 7. EVACUATION OF SRANG WAS UNDERTAKEN BUT MANY MILITARY AND CIVILIANS LIVING AT THE GARRISON ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED OR CAPTURED. AS IN THE CASE OF TRAM KHNAR MOST PERSONNEL REMAIN UNACCOUNTED FOR.

19. SHIFTING WESTWARD, KC FORCES THEN INTERDICTED RTE 4 SOUTHWEST OF KOMPONG SPEU ON NOVEMBER 11. A THREE BATTALION FANK CLEARING OPERATION IS UNDERWAY. ON THE PREVIOUS DAY ENEMY FORCES TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED A SECTION

OF RTE 4 WEST OF POCHENTONG AIRFIELD, BUT A PROMPT FANK REACTION REOPENED THE ROAD LATER THE SAME DAY.

20. RTE 5 TO BATTAMBANG REMAINS CLOSED BETWEEN O SANDAN AND SALA LEK PRAM. ONLY LIGHT ACTIVITY WAS NOTED ALONG THE HIGHWAY ALTHOUGH RENEWED ENEMY INITIATIVES ARE LIKELY. OF THE 750 CAMBODIAN SOLDIERS FORCED TO ABANDON TUK LAAK ON NOVEMBER 4, ONLY 300 HAVE RETURNED TO FRIENDLY LINES.

21. NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH, VIHEAR SUOR RECEIVED STEADY ENEMY PRESSURE. OVER 1,000 FRESH TROOPS HAVE BEEN HELI-LIFTED FROM PHNOM PENH TO PARTICIAPTE IN THE RELIEF OF THE GARRISON WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER PRESSURE SINCE MID-AUGUST. MEANWHILE FANK OPERATIONAL FORCES RE-SECURED MOST OF THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG RIVER NORTHEAST OF
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THE CAPITAL AGAINST LIGHT ENEMY OPPOSITION.

22. AT KOMPONG CHAM, FANK FORCES REGAINED CONTROL OF THE HIGH GROUND OVERLOOKING THE CITY'S AIRFIELD ON NOVEMBER 7 AGAINST STIFF ENEMY RESISTANCE. FANK HAS SINCE DRIVEN ITS PERIMETER FURTHER NORTHWARD AND WESTWARD IN ORDER TO REDDUCE THE INSECURITY OF AIRSPACE LANES OF APPROACH TO THE AIRFIELD. NECESSARY FOR THE RESUPPLY OF THE CITY, THE AIRFIELD IS EXPECTED TO BE OPENED IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. ENEMY FORCES CONTINUE SMALL SCALE ACTIONS AROUND KOMPONG CHAM IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP FANK PINNED-DOWN AND DEFENSE-ORIENTED.

23. THE FANK OPERATION TO RETAKE THE COASTAL RESORT TOWN OF KEP MADE NO PROGRESS AND HAS APPARENTLY BEEN HALTED.

24. A SPECIAL SEVEN-SHIP MEKONG RIVER CONVOY ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH FROM SOUTH VIET NAM ON NOVEMBER 11 WITH POL AND RICE SUPPLIES, WITHOUT INCIDENT.
ENGLE

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